The Army has a long history in the Chesapeake Bay. In recent years, the Army has been an instrumental element in the Bay's restoration and protection. This effort ties into the Army's overall environmental program that seeks to maintain military readiness while enhancing quality of life and encouraging environmental stewardship and community partnerships.

The Army's Chesapeake Bay Program's roots began to grow in 1984 when the Department of Defense signed a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program. Since this inception, three additional agreements have been signed that have increased the scope and breadth of the Army's commitment to the Bay. Today, the Army's Chesapeake Bay Program is a multifaceted program that uses local, state, and federal partnerships to go beyond compliance, and incorporate restoration, pollution prevention, and stewardship initiatives into its daily mission of protecting the United States.

Fort A.P. Hill's annual "Ranger Challenge" exercise.

Habitat and Living Resources Restoration

Bay installations strive to maintain a variety of habitats in which soldiers train and native plants and animals flourish. To help achieve this end, Army installations develop Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans to guide their environmental programs. These plans incorporate Chesapeake Bay initiatives that help Bay installations restore vital habitats, such as submerged aquatic vegetation, wetlands, and streamside forest buffers, to the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. As a result, Bay installations maintain some of the most abundant native wildlife in the watershed, including several threatened and endangered species. The installations are partnering with a variety of organizations and agencies to foster the continued productivity of these native species beyond man-made boundaries and into the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Soldier uses the terrain for cover during combat infantry training at Fort A.P. Hill.

Aberdeen Proving Ground's submerged aquatic vegetation program.

Nutrient Reduction

An overabundance of nutrients has decreased the quality of life in the Chesapeake Bay. In 1987, the Chesapeake Bay Program called for a 40 percent reduction in nutrient inputs to the Bay by the year 2000. Army Bay installations have been participating in this effort by upgrading their wastewater treatment plants, transferring their wastewater to public facilities, and hosting Federal Facility Site Assessments to determine new ways to improve their nutrient reduction and environmental programs. Bay installations also improve their storm water management practices to reduce the nutrient, pollutant, and sediment inputs that are running off their lands and into nearby waters. Several of these installations volunteer to work on local Tributary Strategy Teams to unite their efforts with other Bay partners, and find new ways to reduce nutrient inputs into area streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Jackson Miles Abbott Wetland Refuge at Fort Belvoir.

Toxics Reduction and Pollution Prevention

Army Bay installations employ a variety of innovative technologies and management practices to reduce their use and need for toxic chemicals whenever and wherever possible. The installations have specific requirements to centrally manage and contain hazardous materials, minimize hazardous and non-hazardous waste, conserve energy, and recycle materials. Through Integrated Pest Management, Bay installations carefully monitor their pesticide needs and employ alternative or least toxic methods to reduce or eliminate pest populations.

BayScaping project at Fort Meade.

Several of these installations implement a program called BayScapes. This program uses native plants for landscaping practices to drastically cut down on pesticides, fertilizers, and maintenance needs while providing native habitat for area wildlife.

Public Access and Outreach

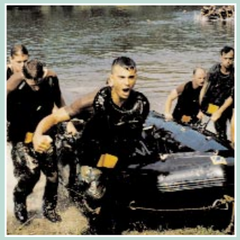
Perhaps the Army's greatest initiative for the Chesapeake Bay is reaching out to the servicemen and women, their families, and neighboring communities to help instill the importance of the Chesapeake Bay in their homes and in their hearts. The installations conduct a variety of Bay-related activities, including adopting schools, opening nature trails, conducting Earth Day and Clean the Bay Day activities, and providing tours and access. Such opportunities give people a sense of ownership for the Chesapeake Bay and an understanding of the environment that, in the case of the military and their families, is taken with them and transferred to other ecosystems as they travel throughout the United States and the world.

The Fort Eustis nature trail provides public access to natural resources.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center storm drain stenciling project promotes pollution prevention.

The U.S. Army Environmental Center

The U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC), located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, coordinates the Army's overall efforts in the Chesapeake Bay. USAEC supports Army Bay installation efforts by assisting in attaining funding, encouraging partnerships, integrating Chesapeake Bay initiatives with the Army's environmental program, and offering Bay-related workshops. USAEC also maintains the Army Chesapeake Bay Program home page and the *Army Chesapeake Review* newsletter to communicate the Chesapeake Bay Program's latest initiatives to the Bay installations and to publicize Army Bay success stories.



Soldiers learn how to use zodiac boats to cross bodies of water at Fort A.P. Hill.

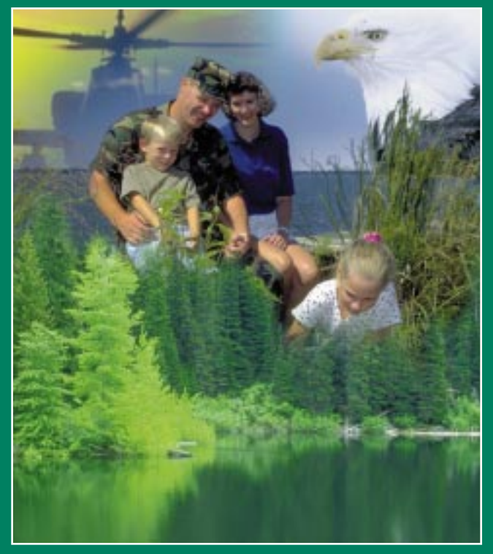
Army Environmental Response Line:
1 (800) USA-3845

Write To:
Commander
U.S. Army Environmental Center
ATTN: SFIM-AEC-CO
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010

Home Page Address:
www.hqda.army.mil/acsimweb/env/cbi/index.htm

Printed on recycled paper

The Army's Chesapeake Bay Program



"Protecting the Bay and Its Resources for Future Generations"

Army Installations in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed